The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter consists in brief summary of important matters affecting labor, investing in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information as may benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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ARBITRATION BY FORCE VICTIMIZES WORKERS

Wellington, New Zealand, Dec. 4.—By reading the compulsory arbitration act a meaning never intended, the court of arbitration has made it possible for the shipping interests to victimize members of the Greymouth Wharf Laborers' union.

This organization is registered according to law and was working under a court award that established wages and working conditions, and which was accepted by both themselves and employers. Under the circumstances a sympathy with Wellington water side workers. This act was illegal and void as it had been entered into under the strike cut off, and so notified their employers. In the meantime the shipping companies had gathered together a handful of so-called "loyal" employes, formed them into a "union," handed them government registration, or recognition, and then began a policy of victimization against members of the Greymouth Wharf Laborers' union. The latter appealed to the government to stop this blacklisting, but without success, and the unionists were finally compelled to start proceedings themselves in the court of arbitration. There took the position that even though a breach of the award had been committed, this did not entitle them to act. In support of this they quoted section 30 of the arbitration act, which provides that no award shall be in force after a new one is agreed to or until the registration of a union is cancelled.

The court, however, based this plain wording of the law and supported the shipping interests in their claim that a strike, no matter how small, automatically ends an award. Armed with this decision the employers are now in a position to victimize every worker who dared to violate the law and create work—to strike.

"If a strike puts an end to an award," says the Maoriland Worker, published in this city, "it would be well that it be found out by employers will have the same effect. It must follow, from the decision in question, that when strikes occur hereafter, all the employers need do is to make an arrangement with 15 'loyal' workers, ask them to form a union, enter into an industrial agreement with them and proceed as if nothing had happened. There is no need to pay the penalties against the strikers, inasmuch as they can be ignored and victimized.

"It is a notorious fact that the 'loyal' union at Greymouth, like those at Auckland, Huntly and Wellington, was in granted registration, although the statutory preliminaries were not complied with. It appears, however, that it is impossible to impeach the registration of a union when once the certificate had been issued, although otherwise it is the case of the fraudulent registration of a company. Hence, once the department has seen fit to issue a certificate, no matter how the new union may have been faked, registration gives the fraudulent bantling a legal status."

FOREIGN EDUCATION SURVEYED.

Washington Dec. 4.—International industrial competition and the disclosure that Germany's material progress was upon education have been the motive for school surveys abroad, according to a bulletin of the United States bureau of education on "Foreign Educational Surveys."

The bulletin says the efforts to reorganize American schools in industrial and vocational ways were coincident with a realization by the people of the wonderful progress made by Germany in vocational education and of the consequent advance in international industry and commerce.

The report on a survey made as far back as 1884, on technical education expresses its astonishment at the industrial progress in France, Germany, and Switzerland, and contains the significant remark: "Now we are of the opinion that England still maintains her lead in the world of industry, the commissioners think we are mistaken." The opinion that England still maintains her lead in the world of industry, the commissioners conclude that "if England is to maintain it, the individual business managers, foremen, and workmen should combine theoretical instruction with their acknowledged practical skill."

ILLEGAL STRIKES CONDEMNED.

Pittsburg, Kans., Dec. 4.—President Harrigan of district 14, United Mine Workers' union, has called upon members to stamp out illegal strikes. He says "these local shutdowns and strikes only fortify the arguments of the operators to restrict the progress of our union."

"We have no doubt," he continues, "if these few members of our union who have disregarded our contract could thoroughly realize what a terrible effect this procedure has had on our gaining an organization in the non-union fields of this country, they would hesitate before resorting to such action. The district executive shows that every illegal strike is recorded by the operators and is used against the workers at wage conferences.

HUGE WASTE IN FARMING.

Washington, Dec. 4.—United States Senator Fletcher has called a meeting of the national marketing committee to devise means to aid the farmer in marketing his products, and also to enable the consumer to distribute more evenly the high cost of food and the high cost of service.

"The people of this country are producing annually crops for which they receive $9,000,000,000, and for which the consumer pays $20,000,000,000," said Representative W. S. Goodwin, of Arkansas, a member of the committee. "The farmer gets 6 cents for the middleman gets 14 cents for each dollar the consumer pays for the farmer's crops. There is an enormous amount of waste, especially in perishable products, because of the lack of some central directing intelligence."

COMBATTING WHITE PLAGUE.

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 4.—The state educational department is arranging to carry the state-wide campaign against tuberculosis into the public schools of Michigan. During the week of March the public school children are will act jointly in the work.

The state board of health has discovered that many rural schools are responsible for the spread of tuberculosis. It is stated that "the little red school house" is the worst, and the buildings erected on standard lines is the rule in many school districts.

NEW GLASS BLOWERS' OFFICIAL.

Philadelphia, Dec. 4.—Harry Jenkins is secretary of the Glass Bottle Blowers' Association of America, succeeding William Lamey, deceased. The new official has held many positions of trust in the Glass Bottle Blowers' union, among them being organizer, member of the national executive board and secretary of the joint wage committee which meets employers to adjust wage scales.

SAFETY AT SEA SUSTAINED

San Francisco, Dec. 4.—Practically every human act is grist to the trade unionists' mill in pleading the workers' cause.

This is illustrated by Editor Scharrenberg of the Coast Seamen's Journal, who uses a decision of Secretary of State Lansing to support the seamen's law.

The federal premier, in his effort to establish safety at sea, in these war times, has declared that the placing of American citizens in small boats on the high seas is not humane, and according them a "place of safety" within the meaning of the term as used in international law.

The alert sailor man, who edits the Seamen's Journal, makes the strong point to justify the seamen's law:

"If an open boat does not constitute a place of safety, what shall we say of a nation which permits its ships to go to sea on the longer ocean voyages with only sufficient lifeboats to take 25 per cent of those on board? And what shall we say when ships are permitted to go to sea in the coastwise trade and for traffic on the great lakes with few lifeboats and rafts that from 30 to 50 per cent of those on board will be without means for the use of accident.

"After all, it does not matter what we might say about such a policy. The fact remains that the 'unreasonable' safety requirements in the La Follette seamen's act look to nothing more than to provide sufficient lifeboats to accommodate 75 per cent of those aboard a vessel in the offshore trade, and the 'unreasonable' law requires lifeboat accommodation for a much smaller number in some instances as low as 20 per cent if the vessel is engaged in the coastwise trade or in navigation on the great lakes.

"Secretary Lansing's definition of a 'place of safety' ought to be helpful in strengthening the safety features in the seamen's law. If a seat in a lifeboat is the 'place of safety' which it is surely immeasurably safer than standing room on a raft.

"Data for this, if still an eminently proper and reasonable demand."

"EDUCATING" THE PEOPLE.

Coaldale, Pa., Dec. 4.—Anthracite coal operators are not overlooking the necessity of educating the "public" in negotiating the next miners' wage scale.

The Tollers' Defense, official newspaper of United Mine Workers' district No. 1, prints the following:

"The news writers which were taken through the anthracite in a special train and fed and liquored at the operators, will soon send out their dope stories. It is not possible that this stuff will be in the form that the operators contemplate. News gathered and written by the bureau of information is in the interest of the corporations. The men made a careful investigation of mining conditions in swift automobiles, and toured the anthracite in less than three days. Photographs of the best conditions of houses were taken, and the conditions passed up. The men did not enter the mines at all, but it is presumed that they will accept the word of the operators as to the conditions inside."

INDICT EASTLAND OFFICIALS.

Chicago, Dec. 4.—The federal grand jury has returned three new indictments against men who had already been previously indicted on charges of responsibility for the Eastland disaster, in the list are included federal steamboat inspectors, officers of the company and the engineer and captain of the Eastland.

The new indictments charge manslaughter, as did the previous indictments, with a new theory of prosecution added. In addition to the manslaughter charge under section 332 of the criminal code the defendants are charged with conspiracy to violate the law.

They are also charged with violating section 2 of the act of congress of 1838, which prohibits owners, agents, charterers, and navigating officers from sending unseaworthy ships to sea. The government holds that the Eastland was unseaworthy on the morning of July 24, when it tipped over in the Chicago river and carried 815 passengers to death.

WANT CONSTITUTION CHANGED.

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 4.—In announcing the annual convention of the Tennessee state federation of labor, to be held in Jackson, beginning January 3, officers call attention to the coming election, which will decide whether the people of this state favor calling a state constitutional convention.

"This is the first real opportunity we have had to place ourselves in a position to get substantial relief," say the unionists. "If we fail to get a constitution that is progressive we have lost our labors of eighteen years; on the other hand, if we grasp the opportunity and handle it intelligently the benefits cannot be estimated."

STRIKE INCREASES WAGES.

Lowell, Mass., Dec. 4.—An annual increase of about $300,000 is recommended by the state board of conciliation and arbitration in wages of cartridge workers employed by the United States Cartridge company. They struck for a 54-hour week and returned to work after the company agreed to accept the state board of arbiters. About 6,000 workers are affected, and the average increase is approximately 10 per cent. The strike dates from September 28, last, which means there is upwards of $50,000 now due the workers for back pay.

GIRLS WANT SHORTER HOURS.

New York, Dec. 4.—Shorter hours, recognition of their union and sanitary work rooms are the demands by the White Goods Workers' union, which has called several strikes in unorganized shops. These girls are endeavoring to have unorganized shops join an association of manufacturers that recognizes the union, and which has a working agreement with the union.

ORGANIZE; LOCKED OUT.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 4.—Laborers employed by the Union Steel Casting company have been locked out because they refused to abandon their recently organized union, chartered by the A. F. of L. Organizer Lewis, together with an interpreter, is assisting these workers, practically none of whom can speak English.

LONGSHOREMEN RAISE WAGES.

Grand Haven, Mich., Dec. 4.—After a 24-hours' strike longshoremen employed by the Grand Trunk Transportation company raised wages 5 cents an hour

"CHEAP" LABOR WASTES HUMAN LIFE

By PRESIDENT GOMPERS IN "AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST."

Low wages are in conflict with the principles of industrial statesmanship.

Statesmanship has concern for future growth and opportunity—it distinguishes between the ephemeral and the permanent, and takes into account relative values. Some industrial practices may be inhuman from the standpoint of immediate money costs, but extravagant from the standpoint of long-time costs and from the costs calculated in human producing ability and national virility.

There has been no force that has so insistently demanded and sought to establish ideals of industrial statesmanship as the trade union movement—and economic statesmanship is the foundation for all national well-being and progress.

Repeatedly, trade unionists have called attention to conditions that constitute a national menace. For many years the Central Federated Union of Greater New York and vicinity has urged upon the city council that cheap labor does not necessarily or usually mean low cost of production; that the trade union movement urges as of vital concern the conservation of human life and the employment of efficient workmen and employes competent to perform their work in the best way. Their frequent warnings have been recently justified with most appalling force.

Without warning, several blocks of Broadway, underneath the streets in the new subway were in progress, caved in. The subway was being constructed in accord with ideals of "economy." The men who were employed were "cheap" workers as they are called, were digging and delving in the mud for $1.50 per day. Another "economy" device was the absence of an engineer to oversee the work of construction. When the disaster occurred there was no one who knew and no one who could give warning. Whatever was the cause of the cave-in, the total absence of precaution against such a disaster or to insure the safety of the workers and of the public upon which the safety of the lives of so many passengers will depend, was in harmony with the policy of cheap labor. But cheap labor is in accord with false notions of cost. It is that ideal of cheapness that has no regard for permanence, for conserving productive power and for estimating properly the value of the creative genius that directs and controls the muscles and the motions of men.

It was a significant coincidence that at the time of the "accident," the interests hostile to the welfare of the workers, who constitute the great majority of the nation, were seeking to have declared unconstitutional a law intended to take the element of workmanship and manhood of those employed upon the public works of New York.

The labor movement has steadfastly insisted that that which is of transcendent importance to any nation is the protection and the development of its people.

A nation will stand or fall as the citizenship developes or deteriorates.

The material things of civilization are intended for the service of human beings.

All power and policies of protection ought to be in accord with the ideals which protect the human at any sacrifice

To employ cheap labor for municipal construction at the rate of $2.50 per day is to put a high cost to be considered by any community. That saving of public moneys means an expenditure of unpaid human productive power. It means under-nourishment, poor clothing, poor housing, all of the things that are opposed to the best social intercourse, not only for the individuals employed, but of all those dependent upon them. It means destruction of human powers that might and should develop into valuable useful citizens. It is a brutal waste of human life in the effort to save a few dollars.

It is high time that our municipalities, our states and our national government should set the standard of human labor an example of proper policies of conservation and a real understanding of what constitutes low cost of production.

We can no longer tolerate cheap standards, cheap wages, "cheap workers," unless we create a cheap people—a cheap nation. If we want things that are of value—of service—we must pay what they are worth.

DEATHS IN MINES REDUCED

Washington, Dec. 4.—While deaths in mines have been reduced, the percentage is still too big, says Director Manning of the bureau of mines, in a report just issued. The figures for 1914 show that 1,655 less men were killed than in the year 1913. The total number of men killed in all the mines and quarries of the country in 1914 was 2,193. In the year 1913 the number was 3,651.

"These figures do not tell the whole story," said the director. "There were more than a million men employed in these mines and quarries, and the death rate for the year 1914 was 3.16 for each 1,000 men employed, as contrasted with 3.49 for the year 1913. In other words, in nearly every mining camp of any size in the country there is one miner spared to his family who would have been killed had the same fatality record obtained in 1914 as in the previous year.

"These results are an eloquent tribute to the educational and safety campaign which is being carried on in behalf of the miners by the operators, the mines themselves, the state mine inspectors and the bureau of mines.

"I think it safe to say that no American manhood and American ideals that while the European nations at war are losing terrible numbers, fatality lists with the names of killed and wounded by the thousand we have not had a single casualty in the list but to save life, and that we can issue bills showing a steadily decreasing death rate in our American mines. I do not mean by this that we have in any way reached ideal conditions. More than three men killed out of every 1,000 employed in the mines is too high a percentage of death. It includes much more than the natural hazards of the industry. What we are striving for is to get the fatality down to the point and with the loyal assistance we are receiving from so many sources we expect to accomplish that much."

REFUSES TO ACCEPT AWARD.

Toronto, Canada, Dec. 4.—The Canadian Northern railroad, like the Toronto hydro-electric commission has refused to accept an award of a board of conciliation under the Dominion industrial disputes act, which is intended to stop strikes and lockouts in public utilities.

Brotherhood engineers and firemen asked for the appointment of a board to adjust differences with the railroad, and did not fulfill the demands of these workers, but they accepted it. The company has rejected the award and it is said the brotherhoods are arranging for a strike vote.

NO HANDS; TOTAL DISABILITY.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 4.—A decision by the state court of appeals was necessary to convince an employer at Cortlet, this state, that when an employe lost both hands that that constituted total disability within the meaning of the workmen's compensation law.

TRYING TO ADJUST STRIKE.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 4.—William Blackman, representing the United States department of labor, is attempting a settlement of the strike now on at the Dunlap and Modern Tool, Die and Machine company's plants. Those workers are asking for a reduction of working hours.

SLUMS OF AMERICAN CITIES WILL BE CLOGGED AFTER EUROPEAN WAR

Chicago, Dec. 4.—Writing in the Chicago Tribune, Henry M. Hyde gives the following estimate of conditions in America after the European war if legislation restricting immigration is not passed at the present congress:

"Peace, prosperity, and high wages while the dam of war holds back the rising flood, then, when the war is over, the dam will burst and Europe, depressed, and degraded peoples, coming from southern and eastern Europe, will overwhelm us and clog the slums of Chicago and other cities.

"That is what many students of immigration predict will be the effect of the great war on the United States.

"They foresee the coming of millions of illiterate, unskilled, penniless laborers, who will underbid wages, lower the standard of living while increasing its cost, increase child labor, hamper the progress of the workpeonage more possible and postpone for years the success of the woman's movement in the United States.

"They shudder at what will happen when the twentieth century is pervaded by a vast army of people who have never risen above the standards of the sixteenth century.

"They declare that now, while the war is acting as a temporary barrier to immigration, the people of the United States should take some steps which will prevent the influx when democratic institutions by an abject and illiterate flood of feudal peasants and serfdom.

"With the coming of peace they believe that not only will immigration from southern and eastern Europe be renewed on a much greater scale, but that new and swelling tides will set in from all of western Asia and as far east as Persia.

"We are already receiving immigrants from Asiatic Turkey, Circassia, Syria, and Arabia," wrote Prof. Edward A. Ross of the University of Wisconsin, just before the war began. 'An immigration has started up from Persia and conditions are ripe for a heavy influx from western Asia.'

"There are in southern and eastern Europe and western Asia," says Dr. Warne in the last Annals of the Academy of Political and Social Science, "great reservoirs of races and peoples not recently tapped by the ocean steamship lines. No one can conceive from these racial groups any possible betterment in their economic condition growing out of the present war. If anything, it will be worse, not better, and such as to increase their emigration.

"Even among those experts who do not favor the further restriction of immigration, there is a widespread belief that the end of the war will see a demobilization which will present to the people of the United States to take stock of the immigration situation.

"In the United States to remain an open refuge for the poor and oppressed of every nation—with the exception of the Chinese? Or does the welfare of the people of the United States demand the restrictions recommended that further restrictions be placed on immigration?"

GUARD AMERICAN IDEALS.

The recent A. F. of L. convention at San Francisco made this declaration in support of its advocacy of a literacy test for immigrants:

"The American labor movement is not devoted in any of its manifestations or activities to any proposition having for its purpose the closing of the gates of opportunity to any man or woman, no matter what race or color, but in justice to the men and women of America who have developed by their industry and through their thrift, who have created from their intelligence and fostered by their genius institutions that properly should conserve the highest and dearest rights of mankind while securing a standard of living that is higher and productive of better results than any other known to the world's history, cannot complacently view, or quietly submit to the unrestricted of any influence or the existence of any means the continuance of which would inevitably break down and eventually destroy the conditions of social life in America. We demand that those aliens, no matter from whence they come, be such as are properly qualified to participate in the responsibilities as well as the privileges of our civilization.

"So far as the literacy test is concerned the American Federation of Labor is irrevocably pledged to that proposed means of preventing the bringing into this country of unfit immigrants. It is the least of all the qualifications that might reasonably be required."

BROOM MAKERS ARE ACTIVE.

Chicago, Dec. 4.—Secretary-Treasurer Boyer of the International Brush and Whisk Makers' union reports splendid success in an eastern organizing campaign. In the month of November alone larger membership increases than any one month in the history of that union. In Pittsburg agreements with every manufacturer have been secured. An aggressive local has been organized in Baltimore and the local at Philadelphia has been reorganized.

FREE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

Chicago, Dec. 4.—An increase of 34 per cent in the number of places found for unemployed in October, 1915, as compared with the same month a year ago is the record of the Illinois free employment offices, according to General Superintendent Boyd.

RELIEF URGED BY PROBERS

Washington, Dec. 4.—The committee on industrial relations, formed by Frank P. Walsh, in co-operation with trade unionists and others to organize labor's leadership, will hold its first conference here at the headquarters of the committee in Washington next Saturday. Members of the committee are now pushing the dismissing touches to the bills which congress will be asked to pass in order to strike down the abuses exposed by the commission on industrial relations, with especially reference to the forces that block labor in its effort to organize. One of the most important of these measures is intended to prohibit the importation in interstate commerce of strikebreakers, armed guards and machine guns.

The A. F. of L. convention at San Francisco had this to say of the new committee:

"We most heartily indorse the work of the United States commission on industrial relations and we urge support and co-operation of the proposed committee on industrial relations with the end in view of furthering legislation both national and state in harmony with the fundamental principles of trade unionism, as expressed in and by the American Federation of Labor.

A. F. of L. Vice President O'Connell, together with A. F. of L. Treasurer Lennon, have been active in the work of the commission on industrial relations. They are also members of the new committee.

"With the commission's report before them, I cannot see how congressmen can refuse to act favorably on the measures we are submitting for their consideration," said Vice President O'Connell. "They not only have the facts before them as they never did before, but the public sentiment is now backed by the tremendous power of a public opinion which has been aroused by the hearings and reports of the federal commission."

COURT EXTENDS WOMEN'S LAW.

Boston, Dec. 4.—The state supreme court refuses to define work, whether it be mental or physical, and rules that the women's 54-hour-week law applies to both the mental and manual. The 54-hour week on account of sickness, and that if $2 a week is taken off the average wage when the wage loss from sickness annually totals $500,000,000.

Mr. Harris said Dr. Harris, "no less than 27 states have enacted laws that provide pensions for widows, and in 20 years 14 states have enacted laws to compensate workmen injured at work. When the compulsory health insurance is universal it is probable that it will meet with no less phenomenal success."

RUNNING BOARD IS DANGEROUS.

Washington, Dec. 4.—In a suit for damages against the street car company, Justice Robb, of the District of Columbia coug of appeals, has ruled that if a passenger leaves a line place in a street car and exposes himself to danger by standing on the running board of the conveyance, he is guilty of contributory negligence.

TEAMSTERS WIN STRIKE.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 4.—Teamsters in this city have won their three weeks' strike and gained now $1 a week, with extra pay for overtime.

HYDRO STRIKE CALLED OFF

Toronto, Canada, Dec. 4.—The Electrical Workers' union has voted to call off the strike against the hydro-electric commission, and this municipally controlled public utility has made a record in that it is the first to reject an award agreed to by a board of investigation and conciliation appointed by the Dominion government under the industrial disputes act.

This law is intended to check strikes and lockouts in public utilities. It provides that a strike or lockout is illegal before a board, appointed by the government, investigates and reports on the question.

Under this act the electrical workers asked for the appointment of a board to consider their increased wage demands. The board made an award in favor of the workers, which was rejected by the commission in charge of this public utility. To enforce the award of the government's representatives, the men struck.

They have now declared the strike off and have returned on the liberal terms than those favored by the company's representative on the conciliation board.

The ending of this strike is bound to have a far-reaching effect throughout the entire Dominion as it will undoubtedly increase opposition to an act that has been declared to be the last word as a strike preventative in public utilities.

The Industrial Banner, official newspaper of Toronto trade unionists, has this to say of the hydro-electric commission's policy:

"Incidentally it may be stated that the commission has found that one of the hardest blow to the Canadian disputes act that it has ever received. It is well known that a growing sentiment of the labor organizations are openly antagonistic to the act, which they term "the employers as an aid supports the New York judiciary, and declare that it is time to bring and trustees of the people's money, has the right to prescribe conditions under which contracts shall be expended. In answer to the claim that the law violates treaty rights between the United States and Italy, the court said:

"The equality of rights that the treaty secures is equality only in respect of protection and security for persons and property."

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 4.—The anti-alien labor law, which has been held constitutional by the United States supreme court, is not in effect in this state today as the court of appeals upheld the law last February. The legislature amended the law, which now permits aliens to work on public works when citizens are not available. Subway contractors in New York city employ aliens on the construction of the subway.

If the amendment was not passed.

The effect of this cheap labor is shown in the Lawrence, Mass., textile strike, when seven persons were killed and over 100 injured.

COMPENSATION ACT UPHELD.

Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 4.—The state supreme court, in the longest decision ever filed in that tribunal, has upheld the constitutionality of the compensation and employers' liability act. The Consolidated Coal company of Colfax brought the case to determine the status of the act and was only liable under the employers' liability act. A employe of the company was killed and was awarded damages for injuries by the compensation commission. The company, in its appeal, attacked the constitutionality of the law. It also held that the lower court had erred in refusing to permit it to prove to the jury that it was not responsible for the injuries. The supreme court upheld the company in this latter contention and remanded the case for retrial. "In all other respects," said the court, "the decision below is right and the validity of the statute under consideration is hereby affirmed."

ATTACK COMPENSATION LAW.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Certain parts of the New York and New Jersey compensation law are to be attacked by the United States supreme court. The Southern Pacific Steamship company, which operates a line of boats running from New York city to Galveston, asks to be exempt from the New York law, which it claims interferes with interstate commerce. The federal district court dismissed complains of the company to pay damages to a New York longshoreman. The Clyde Steamship company complains of the application of this law.

The American Radiator company protests against the New Jersey act because an employe, who was injured in that state by a movement, damages under the law, made a contract of employment in New York.

TO REDUCE FIRE HAZARD.

New York, Dec. 4.—The Central Federated union has elected a representative to the "joint committee on industrial fire hazards," which is in process of formation to bring together various bodies, civic and labor, interested in the enforcement of the law. The complains of the work of these laws and in arousing an effective public demand for making factories safe.

FAVOR COMPULSORY EDUCATION

Richmond, Va., Dec. 4.—The State Teachers' Association, at its convention in Richmond this week, has endorsed compulsory educational laws. Place the present system, which leaves the question to the counties, and to the various Virginia school districts. The teachers declared this latter system was merely an experiment.

PRINTERS SIGN AGREEMENT.

Jersey City, N. J., Dec. 4.—Commercial printing houses have accepted the new wage scale of typographical union, and the agreement has been signed. The rates are now $25 per week, with $26 for those on machine operations. The union is negotiating a newspaper scale.

HORSESHOERS' GOOD RECORD.

Jersey City, N. J., Dec. 4.—In an address to the Central Labor Union, Organizer Boulanter of the International Horseshoers' union stated that the organization has increased steadily and that of the 72 shops in Hudson county but 13 are unorganized.

ENOUGH WORKERS IN ZONE.

Washington, Dec. 4.—On statements issued by Governor Goethals of the Panama zone, the war department asserts that there are sufficient workers on the canal. There have been an influx of unemployed to the isthmus because of the recent canal slides.

DEMAND INCREASE IN WAGES.

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 4.—Iron molders have asked for a minimum rate of $3 for a nine-hour day. The old rate was $2.50.